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BOOK REVIEWS.

LAW OF WILLS, EXECUTORS, AND ADMINISTRATORS, by James Schouler, LL.D., fifth edition, in two volumes, pp. clxxiv, 1735: Matthew Bender & Company, Albany, N. Y., 1915.

The fact that the work before me has gone through four editions, and that a fifth is justified, speaks more eloquently than any words could say, that it has supplied a real want, and proved a satisfaction to those who have used it. The scholarship of our author is well known from his numerous books. I still distinctly remember the relaxation I used to feel thirty years ago, as a country school-teacher, reading law on the side, when I refreshed myself from the dense and ponderous pages of Chitty's Pleading by reading our author's delightful volume on "Domestic Relations." It was like returning from a foreign language to the mother tongue.

When we contemplate the enormous mass of our adjudicated law on these subjects (the English decisions on which Mr. Williams was able to cover fairly well thirty years ago with three volumes, and to the other of which Mr. Jarman had devoted two large volumes) we are appalled by the constant new growth in fifty different directions in as many separate jurisdictions, each varying in endless details from the original type. We have our separate treatises, our digests, our encyclopedias, designed to index the law of one topic or jurisdiction; but we want a commentary which may not exhaust the decisions on any topic, nor in any jurisdiction, but shall give a general survey, with citation to enough of the old and the new to show the relation of the one to the other, and all reduced to a handy compass; and in these books we have it. No further guaranty of the reliability of the present edition is needed than the author's statement in his preface that he has personally prepared it, and that the whole work has been done with a full sense of his personal responsibility.

J. R. R.

NOTES ON THE SCIENCE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE RELATIONS OF THE STATES TO THE UNITED STATES. By Raleigh C. Minor, Professor of Law, University of Virginia: Anderson Bros, 1913, pp. x, 192.

This is a handbook on the science of government with particular reference to the United States. For the general principles of political science the author has leaned heavily upon Woodrow Wilson's "The State", with occasional references to other authors, mostly American. The author makes no pretension of propounding original theories in regard to the nature of the state but his book is an admirably clear and brief statement of the views with which Mr. Wilson, as professor, scholar, and president, and others have made us familiar.

About half of the book is given up to a consideration of states' rights in the United States. The author's views are reminiscent of the discussions during ante-bellum days in this country, and he is not unnaturally an adherent of the states' rights school. But his views are not extreme

and are expressed with judicial poise and moderation. The doctrines of the nationalistic school are also set forth clearly, sometimes in quotations from Judge Story, Daniel Webster and others. There is a good summary of the discussion between Calhoun and Webster. The treatment of secession is of course from the point of view of the Southerner, but a patriotic and fair-minded one. And the discussion ends with a frank admission that a result of the Civil War has been to overthrow the theory of the constitutional right of the state peaceably to secede from the Union, (see p. 189) and with it the doctrine of nullification. The reviewer agrees heartily with Professor Minor's admonition, "Let him (the reader) beware of the extension of federal powers *by construction*, judicial, legislative, or executive, merely because of the argument from convenience or from the inefficiency of the state governments or of state regulation." It certainly is to be preferred that changes in our governmental institutions be made by constitutional amendment when necessary, rather than by artificial construction by the courts. But in the opinion of the reviewer this is rather because of the harm done to the law and courts and the injury to their prestige than to any danger to our state institutions really worthy of preservation. No one supposes that the right of local government in the historical meaning of the term is endangered because of present nationalistic tendencies in regard to matters of national importance. One has the highest respect for the loyalty and devotion of Virginians to their state. It all proceeds from qualities of the highest kind, but if, as Professor Minor concedes in his book, we have become a nation, then we must admit that national policies must be determined with reference to national interests, even though at times specific state interests suffer. Professor Minor's discussion of this subject is interesting, fair, and clear, as one would expect from the eminent son of a distinguished law teacher and legal scholar.

H. M. B.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE. By Grover Cleveland. Princeton: Princeton University Press. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1913. pp. v, 82.

THE VENEZUELAN BOUNDARY CONTROVERSY. By Grover Cleveland. Princeton: Princeton University Press. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1913. pp. v, 122.

THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CHICAGO STRIKE OF 1894. By Grover Cleveland. Princeton: Princeton University Press. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1913. pp. v, 49.

These are interesting little books by former president Cleveland which would have been noticed here long ago except for the fault of the reviewer. They are accounts in simple unaffected style of three important and exceedingly significant episodes which mark the administration of their author as president of the United States. Grover Cleveland's independence as president was of course one of his striking characteristics. This grew in part, no doubt, out of temperament and character but also it grew, as